

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 15-28 without prejudice. Please add new claims 29-43 as indicated below in the List of Claims.

List of Claims

1-28. Cancelled.

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8/21/01*
29. (New) A process for producing a branched chain L-amino acid, comprising:
- amplifying the activity of brnE (SEQ ID NO:5) or brnF (SEQ ID NO:3) in a bacterium;
 - cultivating the bacterium of step a) in a culture medium under conditions effective for the production of said branched chain L-amino acid; and
 - isolating said branched chain L-amino acid from the cultivated bacterium or culture medium of step b).
- 2 30. (New) The process of claim 29, wherein said bacterium is of the genus *Corynebacterium*.
- 3 31. (New) The process of claim 30, wherein said bacterium is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.
- 4 32. (New) The process of any one of claims 29-31, wherein said branched chain L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of: L-leucine; L-isoleucine; and L-valine.
- 5 33. (New) A process for producing a branched chain L-amino acid, comprising:
 - transforming a bacterial host cell with a recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid insert encoding a protein consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5; or both;

- b) cultivating the transformed bacterial host cell of step a) in a culture medium under conditions effective for the production of said branched chain L-amino acid; and
- c) isolating said branched chain L-amino acid from the cultivated bacterial host cell or culture medium of step b).

6 { 34. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid insert consists essentially of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 101-1176 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:2; and SEQ ID NO:4.

7 { 35. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid insert consists of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 101-1176 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:2; and SEQ ID NO:4.

8 { 36. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid insert consists essentially of nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6 or nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.

9 { 37. (New) The process of claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid insert consists of nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6 or nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.

10 { 38. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid insert comprises:

- a) nucleotides encoding a first polypeptide, said first polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; and
- b) nucleotides encoding a second distinct polypeptide, said second distinct polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

11 { 39. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid insert consists essentially of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

P 40. (New) The process of claim 39, wherein said nucleic acid insert consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

13 41. (New) The process of any one of claims 33-40, wherein said bacterium is of the genus *Corynebacterium*.

14 42. (New) The process of claim 41, wherein said bacterium is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

15 43. (New) The process of any one of claims 33-40, wherein said branched chain L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of: L-leucine; L-isoleucine; and L-valine.